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# A Single Focus book announcement

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**JAMES HEARST** of Black Hawk county, Iowa, has a new book of poems out. (*A Single Focus*, Prairie Press, \$4.50.) Jim is one of the few poets who sound as if they knew what farming is like. Try this, called "The Farmer's Season."

Yeah, spring, I know spring,  
the vernal season/ the chores of  
birth bathed with lilac's per-  
fume/ but the lily's gilt rubs off  
for the farmer's son/ who keeps  
night-time vigils with mud and  
rain/ and cold, Lord, what a way  
to inherit the earth/ aren't there  
other paths to life and the full-  
ness/ thereof? All this pain and  
blood and struggle/ for a new  
start, all this sweat and moan  
to bring/ forth, all this care, to  
clean nostrils and/ let in air, to  
dry the body and warm the  
blood,/ to teach wobbly legs to  
stand, the mouth to suck/ Here  
I am alone at midnight with  
the rain for music, a bale of hay  
for my bed, a lantern/ for light  
and for company an old sow  
with/ a basket of pigs in her  
belly ready to deliver.